

52  
B1  
A1

1. (Amended) An image processing apparatus including:

- a first determination means for determining whether or not a pixel included in an image is a color pixel;
- means for dividing the image into a predetermined number of a plurality of blocks;
- counting means for counting the number of color pixels for each block; and
- second determination means for determining whether or not the image is a color image based on the counting result by the counting means.

52  
B1  
A2

52. (Amended) An image forming apparatus including:

- means for inputting an image;
- first determination means for determining whether or not a pixel included in the input image is a color pixel;
- means for dividing the image into a predetermined number of a plurality of blocks;
- counting means for counting the number of color pixels for each block;
- second determination means for determining whether or not the image is a color image based on the counting result by the counting means; and
- printing means performing color-printing in case the second determination means determines the image as a color image, and performing monochrome-printing in case the second determination means determines the image as a non-color image.

56. (Amended) Color image determination method including:

step of determining whether or not pixels included in an image are color pixels,

respectively;

step of dividing the image into a predetermined number of a plurality of blocks;

step of counting the number of color pixels for each block; and

step of determining whether the image is a color image based on the counting

result.